

Van Vliet Aquatic Plants and Algae Control Committee (VVAPAC²)

Date: October 10, 2012

Purpose : Information Update to Riparian Owner Information Packet of 08/21/2012

Contents with Attachments:

1) Additional Information Section (See ATTACHMENTS for Details)

- a) Other lakes
 - i) Rest Lake (Papoose Bay) - Vilas County
 - ii) Rolling Stone - Langlade County
 - iii) Pickerel lake - Forrest / Langlade County
 - iv) Lower Post - Langlade County
 - v) Muskellunge Lake - Vilas County
- b) WDNR Fish Habitat / Mechanical Harvest Impact Study **Copies enroute**
- c) Input from Sandy Gillum - Vice President North central Region Wisconsin Lakes Association.

CONCLUSIONS

- Overall, we did not discover any new information demonstrating negative lake impact.
- Interviews / visits with other lakes, engaged in mechanical harvesting, have not turned up any negative impact(s) to water quality, algae blooms, invasives appearing in harvested areas, and loss of fish population/habitat.
- Studies by WDNR support the potential to improve the game fish population.
- Input from Sandy Gillum would conclude mechanical harvesting does no harm. She also agreed trying to weave together a WDNR grant on fish habitat / mechanical harvesting impacts may be a good idea to pursue.

2) Contractor / Project Information (See ATTACHMENTS for Details)

- a) Notes from Lake tour with Cliff Schmidt
- b) Quote Letter from Cliff Schmidt
- c) Cutting Plan from Cliff Schmidt
- d) Disposal Site
- e) Staging Site - **Letter Pending**
- f) Estimate for Funds
- g) Lake APMP Engineering Contractor
- h) Other Contractors

CONCLUSIONS

- Insights gained from a lake tour with a harvesting contractor confirmed we have problematic areas that could be addressed by mechanical harvesting.
- Any mechanical harvesting effort will "stir up" the lake for 5-7 days.
- A cutting plan and \$ estimate were developed.
- Sites for staging and weed disposal have been secured.
- A \$ estimate for the project, with contingency is expected to be in the range of \$9500.
- Because of our "situation" with Bonestroo - - we are betwixt and between lake engineer consultants. Based on discussions with our "new" engineering firm, it is recommended we submit a WDNR permit on our own.
- We identified one other mechanical harvesting contractor. Although the pricing estimate could be 10-15% lower, because of his reluctance to travel to our area, we recommend developing our relation with Cliff Schmidt.

3) Items for Board Review / Action

- a) **DRAFT** - WDNR Form 3200-113 - Mechanical / Manual Aquatic Plant Control Application (**SEPARATE DOCUMENT**)
- b) Project Funding - **TBD by Board MTG / VOTE**
 - i) Letter with Information summary update (web post of information)
 - ii) Decision to apply and fund application
 - iii) Proper allocation of costs among affected owners
 - iv) Cliff Schmidt - Board Commitment
 - v) Funding
 - (1) Securing hard \$'s from riparian owners
 - (2) Accounting Mechanism

CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

- VVAPAC² has completed (~99% DRAFT) and attached WDNR Form 3200-113 - Mechanical / Manual Aquatic Plant Control Application. This is attached as a separate document.
- VVAPAC² recommends the VVLA board vote to move forward with the project in 2013, fund the WDNR fee of \$300, and submit the application.
- VVAPAC² recommends the VVLA develop a fair and factual based request for dollars, from interested owners. Additionally, VVLA should use existing financial processes to account for collected monies and dissemination of funds.
- VVAPAC² recommends follow-up communication and request for monies, to the owners & members via short letter or email directing people to VVLA website, where prior and all new information packets should be posted.
- VVAPAC² recommends committing to the project and securing a date with the contractor (Cliff Schmidt).

ATTACHMENTS

1. Additional Information Section

a. Other lakes

- i. Rest Lake (Papoose Bay) - Vilas County - Spoke with Bill Curran who has been in charge of efforts. He forwarded me 3 emails that he uses to communicate to riparian owners (14 in the bay)

LETTER #1

July 9, 2009

Dear Papoose Bay Property Owners,

Enclosed is a copy of our approved 2009 harvesting permit with all the permit conditions listed. It was mailed to my home address the week before the 4th when we on vacation, so I wasn't able to check out any of the conditions prior to it being mailed to me.

This year's permit application began with a meeting at the DNR Rhinelander office with Kevin Gauthier, Water Resource Mgmt Specialist, Kyle McLaughlin, Aquatic Plant Mgmt Specialist, Ron Berglund and me, on Monday, April 20th. An assortment of topics were discussed, which I will expand upon, and I was given 5 colored aerial photos of our bay, taken by the DNR, which I think most of you have, but if not, call me, write me, or send me your email address and I'll make sure you get them. These photos, in sequence, are 2 taken on 6/18/08, before the bay was cut (1 pix over the middle of the bay & 1 closer to Hwy K), 2 taken on 9/10/08, after the bay was cut (again, 1 pix over the middle of the bay & 1 closer to Hwy K), and the 5th photo was taken in August 2008 pertaining to a Point Intercept Survey done by the DNR on our bay and part of Rest Lake. They said the DNR had been wanting to do this survey for some time, but due to understaffing, etc., they had not been able to. The gist of the survey is to determine what aquatic plants were found at each colored dot on the photo, (each dot has its own DNR GPS co-ordinate), both by visual and rake densities. The red dots had the most wild rice densities, then yellow & then green somewhat less. A boat with 3 DNR staff raked and recorded each of the GPS co-ordinates and compiled their findings. The intent is to do this yearly, to see what aquatic plants grow at each co-ordinate and/or what plants are being diminished by other plant species. I was told last year the DNR is trying to determine why Rest Lake, as a whole, does not have the same normal weed growth of the other MW lakes in the chain. Expect more yearly aerial photos, and they do compare the photos from one year to the next, to see if there has been any "abnormal" changes or improvements around certain docks.

The key topic of the meeting was about wild rice. It has become a very hot topic over the last year, especially with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and wildlife Commission (G.L.I.F.W.C.) and internally with their Voigt Intertribal Task Force (VITF). It was not mentioned at our DNR meeting, but I have been told by other people that another lake association group that does their own cutting, had the same 20 ft restrictions as us last year, but instead, cut their whole 30 or 40 acres of wild rice. It upset an area tribe and they, in turn, got the VITF involved. Whatever the actual scenario, the VITF has made wild rice protection a big issue this year. We were told at the meeting that our permit would have to get approval from the DNR, then on to GLIFWC and then on to the VITF. We were also told that our application, along with another lake association's application, with them having similar issues as us (ie: wild rice) but with significantly more acreage to cut, would be the initial applications sent all the way through to the VITF,

with no guarantees that the VITF would even allow any of us to cut any wild rice, or if so, how restrictive their conditions would be. Obviously, we were approved, with many conditions (note conditions # 4 & # 7).

Our application has been approved with the same overall conditions thru 2011, PENDING conditions # 12 & # 13. At the meeting in April, Ron and I were handed a 60 page Guideline and Application booklet pertaining to doing an Aquatic Plant Management (APM) plan for Rest Lake, including us. We were told at that time to be aware of it and that the plan could happen at a later date. Now I see that "later date" has a specific date (2012) in our approved application. I've only scanned part of the 60 pages. It's overwhelming & not sure why a small bay like ours has to take the initiative on this, or if we can get someone else to do it, or whatever. It's a 3 year process for approval. I have copies of the Guidelines for anyone familiar and/or interested about lake plans.

As an fyi, regardless of anyone's own personal thoughts, pro or con, the wild rice issue with our bay is here to stay, no matter how it got in our bay. We own property in the treaty-ceded land in Wisconsin and each year it seems we have new hurdles to overcome to get a permit to harvest, just to get navigability to Rest Lake.

Because of the uncertainty of our permit getting approved, then what restrictions would be involved, and the delay in receiving it, Ron and I were reluctant to ask for money earlier this year. We need \$150 check from each of you as soon as possible, since cutting will be squeezed in between the harvester's previously-made commitments, sometime in late July, or early Aug. We carried some money from last year, but not nearly enough to pay for this year without your check. I'm not even sure how much the harvester will be allowed to cut, with all the conditions, so we are making an assumption it will be approx. the same as last year.

I'm also aware of your concerns about future costs of harvesting. After I get this year's bill and compare the costs of permits and harvesting from last year and this year, assuming his total hours of cutting will be restricted, like they were last year, and possibly for the next couple of years, I'm assuming next year's cost could be in the \$350 to \$375 each. Again, I don't know what this year's cost will be, nor do I know if there will be any yearly cost increases for 2010, if any. A couple of things: our harvester, Cliff Schmidt, is one of very few DNR approved harvesters (I don't know of anyone else). Also, he's been extremely helpful in helping me with an assortment of things, like filling out my applications and annual reports, when asked. He said he would help us with names of people that could help us with the APM plan, also. If push comes to shove, and the DNR is going to force US to initiate a lake plan (which I still don't understand the purpose) as part of our requirement in getting our harvesting permit approved, then I'm going to have to pass it off on the rest of you in the area. Hopefully, I can research it enough to where some other organization must do it, not us. I can't, I work full time & travel a lot and I live over 300 miles away. The booklet is intense. There is also a website about it that you should check out.

Again, we need your IMMEDIATE participation, so we can pay the harvester, so please make out a \$150 check to the "Papoose Bay Property Owners Association" and mail it or drop it off to Ron Berglund to me (addresses and phone numbers below).

Sincerely,

Bill Curran

Ron Berglund

ALSO: Alice Kohlway, who owns the property on the point of our bay, on the Eight O' Clock road side, again has graciously allowed the harvester to use her launch area, by her dock, for his flatbed truck, dump truck, and to load in & out with his weed cutting machine. She also asked if I would tell everyone if they would please go "slow-no wake" by her dock in our bay. It seems some are entering and exiting our bay too fast and the wakes are affecting her pier and surrounding shoreline. We all want to be good neighbors, so please tell any friends or relatives that use our bay to please go slow by her pier area, as well. We thank you.

LETTER #2 of 2006

June 5, 2006

Dear Papoose Bay Property
Owners,

Hello from the great Northwood's. The 2006 summer season is here. Memorial Day weekend was great – warm weather and a full lake. Everything looked great, unlike last summer where low water levels made navigation difficult for some.

An update from last year's results, and new developments: Last year 54 tons of vegetation was harvested (18 harvester loads). It was due to the low water, and the exceptional weed growth because of it. This year I discovered we have a new DNR Water Quality Specialist involved with our permit. To date I haven't gotten our permit approved. I don't anticipate a problem, but I have heard that some lake associations have incurred problems getting approval this year. Also, our costs have increased, due to fuel costs. This year the cost is \$540 per property owner. I had a locked-in price the past 2 years, but obviously, his costs have gone up. We are, again, tentatively slotted in for cutting in late July, before the weeds go to seed.

I'm not enamored with the increased costs, but it's a reality if we want a clean, free-flowing, navigable bay - including weed removal. A great example of not cutting the bay would be what evolved, in what fishermen call "Stump City" bay, last year. Getting to "Stump City" as you exit Papoose Bay to Rest Lake, instead of turning left into Rest Lake, go straight – parallel to the shoreline – along the houses on Rest, for approx. 200 to 300 yards. When the houses end, there is a bay that goes towards Hwy W with a lot of stumps in it. The bay used to be closer to Hwy W, but last year at least ½ of it was filled with emergent weeds and was not accessible by boat.

Last year's shallow water made navigation for some, difficult. Uncut weeds will accentuate the problem. Bay maintenance is necessary and priced reasonable, if we want to live on the water – unlike high property prices on the main lakes. And I don't think any of us want to move off water.

This year we really need payment BEFORE July 1st to confirm our time slot, because, with some lake associations having problems getting their permits approved, our weed cutter may have to work in other areas not close to us, or other states, and thus not as flexible in his schedule as in the past. Obviously, not cutting the weeds will affect the value, and for some, the sale-ability of our properties.

Ron Berglund has agreed to assist me again this year. It really helps since he lives on the bay full-time. So, please make out your \$540 check to the "Papoose Bay Property Owners Association" and mail it to Ronald Berglund, P.O. Box 117, Manitowish Waters, Wisconsin 54545 (new phone # 715-604-2006), or drop the check off to his address: K 8, Hwy K.. if you have any questions, don't hesitate to call Ron or me.

We appreciate your immediate participation, and hope your friends, relatives and you enjoy the bay and chain as much as us.

Sincerely,

Ron Berglund

Bill Curran

Letter #3 2005

June 8, 2005

Dear Papoose Bay Property Owners,

The 2005 summer season is here and, like you, found the lake level approx. 18" below normal over Memorial weekend. I fully expect the lake level to rise. A slow rise usually means greater weed growth, with sunlight being able to penetrate to more submergent plants, accelerating their growth. I have tentatively scheduled the weed harvesting for the last week in July, pending enough water for the weed cutter to navigate to all areas as in previous years. This time period is chosen to get the maximum amount of weeds cut before they go to seed, and yet allow us good navigation for the rest of the year, until draw-down.

I'd like to address our weed cutting project and some history of the tremendous amount of time and effort and difficulties it took just to be granted a permit to be allowed to cut our bay. You owners that had your property in the mid-90's and before, know how overgrown the bay got, and was barely navigable. Most boats would have to stop 2 to 3 times to get the huge quantity of weeds off their props to get enough thrust just to make it to the main lake. Then every fall these weeds would die and compost on the bottom after draw-down, further reducing the depth of our already shallow bay.

In the early 90's, Dave Janov and Dawn and Jerry Ukrin got pro-active about getting the bay dredged and cut, but were denied by the DNR. We hired lawyers to fight it, but we were still denied. That cost approx. \$ 4,000. Many more letters were written and many miles were driven for face-to-face meetings to DNR offices in Minocqua and Rhinelander, also to no avail. I finally wrote 2 lengthy letters to my state senator in Kenosha, Joe Andrea, and state senator Roger Breske of Vilas county, refuting all 9 "findings of fact" in the DNR denial, with specific documentation to refute each "finding". Our senator, Joe Andrea, who was on the Fiduciary committee, wrote to George Meyer, who was head of the DNR at that time, and asked him to assist us. Mr. Meyer asked his people to work with us and that's how we got our permit to dredge and cut. It still had to be approved by other organizations, like the Corp of Engineers, Sierra Club, some Indian committees and others.

Dredging would have cost approx. \$25,000 to \$30,000. The DNR and the Corp of Engineers would only allow us a 30 yard dredging path down the middle of the bay and only 10 yards wide to each pier. Silt would have been pumped through a hose through the culvert under Hwy K, way over into an individual's property that we had to find and get approved by the DNR for dumping (more cost). Plus the Corp of Engineers told us the channels would eventually settle in and level out. We also checked on the viability of using silt screens by Hwy K and up Papoose Creek, but weren't feasible.

We opted instead to have all the logs and stumps in the bay removed. This was done in Oct. '95 at approx. \$8,400. The logs, some 50 ft. long and 2 ft in diameter, and stumps, some 8 ft to 12 ft in

circumference, all had to be winched out manually with a boat and by a truck, because they were so big and/or embedded so deep in muck. The only accessible area to our bay that has a ramp, was by Alice Kohlway's property at the end of 8 O'Clock Road. 12 large loads were hauled away and had to be cut up, after we had to find another approved dump site.

Our first weed harvesting was done July '97 by Cliff Schmidt. 165 tons were removed. The first 2 to 3 years the bay was cut resulted in Cliff having many equipment breakdowns from logs and stumps that kept oozing up from being buried in the muck. That's when we insisted all owners keep pulling out all the logs and stumps they could, before, during and after draw-down. Plus, there was the danger of hitting the electric power line that services 8 O'Clock road residents from our Hwy W side. It runs across the bay approx. 1/3rd of the way down from the mouth of the bay.

Regarding weed cutting and Cliff Schmidt. I've enclosed last year's bill for approx 54 tons removed. The past 2 summers were unusually cool, and the tonnage was substantially less than normal. I don't expect that trend to continue. He hasn't raised our price for 3 years, including this one, even though fuel costs and his insurance costs are higher. He's the only weed cutter that's approved by the DNR, that I'm aware of. The Ukrin's looked at buying our own weed cutter in the mid-90's. Cost was approx. \$40,000 to \$50,000, plus storage costs, maintenance and breakage costs, insurance for a trained user, etc. It wasn't worth it. It also took time to find a DNR approved dump site for the cut weeds. The Manitowish town board helped us with that, otherwise trucking costs would have substantially increased. Cliff's newest weed cutting machine, that he's used the last 2 to 3 years, looks like a large pontoon boat that has the whole front gate that drops down in the water, like the front of a WW II landing craft. He lowers or raises the cutting gate according to the depth or obstructions he runs into, as it moves forward. A conveyor belt on this gate moves the cut weeds to the middle of the boat. As these weeds pile up (wet), the cutter gets deeper in the water due to this increasing water weight. He can't get as close to the 8 O'Clock side piers as the other side, due to the rock bar he hits along the 8 O'clock side, because of how deep his harvester drafts in the water. Unloading the cut weeds from his harvester is a problem because he needs a ramp for the dump truck, and Alice Kohlway has always been kind enough to allow him to use her property. He also has to take care of any lawn damage incurred from the heavy equipment shuffled in and out, if there is any.

Through more hard work, we got a permit to do chemical weed killing in '98. We needed 2 dry days for it to be effective, and it rained on the 2nd day after application. Success was very limited, and from what I'm told, with current regulations now in place, it would be almost impossible to get another chemical application granted. So, we cut the weeds. The DNR person I work with, Laura Herman of Rhinelander, knows our situation and Cliff Schmidt and his operational ethics very well. Our project is like, "grandfathered" in for our yearly applications. She informed me that this is her last year directly involved with projects like ours and that next year there will be someone new in her current position. So, I don't know what would happen if we decide to voluntarily skip cutting some year, if the "red tape" would increase again, or what? For whatever it means, our bay is considered a flowage, thus eliminating me from having to write up a lake plan. These plans are like engineering manuals and require lengthy yearly follow-up. Our yearly application fees adjust yearly. One year it's \$120, the next it's \$60, then \$120, then \$60, etc. I don't know why, but it's a good deal compared to what some associations have to pay.

Unless the water is too low to cut the bay, I'm not sure of the ramifications if we voluntarily skip cutting the bay some year. Just an FYI. I told you about our DNR person leaving and I'm not sure what Cliff Schmidt would do. I DO KNOW he's in big demand. He cuts lakes in Indiana, Illinois, southern Wisconsin, as well as others in northern Wi., and also in Minnesota. Like I said, we have a prime cutting period in July,

before the weeds go to seed, but allowing us clean water to boat in, the rest of the year. I don't know if we would lose this prime late July period if we skip a year, or not.

That's the abbreviated history of our bay project. Do NOT think for one moment this was a simplistic process. A lot of times the progress, or lack of, was extremely frustrating, time consuming, and a real pain! But the results are a significantly better looking, and more navigable bay. The pre-bay project owners can easily attest to the improvement, and for you newer bay property owners, you were probably swayed into buying on the bay because land is more reasonable vs the main lakes and our bay looked decent and navigable. It's taken a lot of hard work to achieve this. The yearly cutting has definitely improved the sale-ability of bay property, and will continue to do so, as long as we maintain it, which means cutting AND REMOVAL of the cut weeds.

This comes down to our current situation. I've explained the evolution of our costs to-date, and what our yearly costs are now (harvesting, permits, etc. I haven't included postage, etc.). We used to have more participants in our project, but Paul, at the end of the bay, had his property classified as being on Rest Lake and not in the bay, thus Cliff was not allowed to cut near his property. Paul has understandably stopped participating in our project, and we thank him for his previous support. Last year 2 Bay owners did not participate. We called one owner and he explained extenuating circumstances and was optimistic about this year. There was no response from the other person, even after numerous calls from us and others. When Dawn Ukrin was alive and ran this project, she always kept a little extra money in the bank for a cushion. We chose not to raise the yearly cost to you. Obviously, overall harvesting costs have risen since our 1st cutting in the late 90's, like all other day-to-day costs. Because of the two non-participants, we had a \$275 short-fall that I had to cover out of my own pocket last year. To proceed with this year's cutting, we would need \$485 from ALL property owners (cutting approx. \$6,400; permit \$120; short-fall \$275). We will need your checks immediately to confirm our harvesting slot. Remember, a lot of blood, sweat and tears went into getting this bay in shape. I would expect everyone to participate because it benefits EVERYONE'S property values, and allows you and/or your friends, and/or your relatives, significantly better access to Rest Lake than ever before. If the bay is not deep enough to allow cutting this year, we will send your money back, less the pro-rated amount per person for the \$120 permit cost and the \$275 short-fall, unless you want us to bank it for next year.

Please make out your \$485 check to the "Papoose Bay Property Owners Assoc." and mail it to: Ronald Berglund, P.O. Box 117, Manitowish Waters, Wisconsin 54545 (ph: 715-543-2947). Ron has graciously volunteered to help us with our bay project. It really helps to have someone living on the bay full-time, to be involved with the project. So, if you have any questions, or concerns, don't hesitate to call Ron or me and we'll answer them the best we can.

We'll be looking forward to your immediate participation, and hope you enjoy the bay and the Chain as much as we do.

Sincerely,

Bill Curran

Ron Berglund

ii. Rolling Stone - Langlade County - Jim Sprester

I travelled to Rolling Stone Lake on September 13th, meeting with Sonny Wreczycki who has been in charge of the weed cutting operations on that lake for the past 26 years. I spent the afternoon visiting with Sonny and his wife, learning of their twenty-some years living on Rolling Stone Lake, learning of the changes that the lake has undergone, viewing portions of the lake and its weed harvesting operations, and generally learning about weed cutting from someone who has been actively involved in it longer than most of us have actually lived in the northwoods.

Rolling Stone Lake is a 680 acre lake with similar characteristics to VanVliet Lake. The lake's greatest depth is about 15 feet, the average depth is about 8 feet, and like most lakes of similar composition, it has shallow areas in some of the bays. It is considered to be a "clear-state" lake, meaning it has clear water, yet enough nutrients to produce abundant vegetation. Rolling Stone is a very popular fishing destination receiving considerable amounts of boat traffic all fishing season. It has a fairly large DNR boat landing which services the majority of the lake. There are approximately 120 homes on the lake.

As stated, the lake has abundant nutrients which support a diverse aquatic plant community. This benefits the lake ecosystem in many ways, but the over abundance becomes a nuisance issue and a navigation issue for landowners and others using the lake. Strategic use of a mechanical weed harvester has proven to be beneficial for over 25 years now, and is supported by a large majority of stakeholders on the lake. This harvesting has allowed removal of vegetation from some of the densest parts of the lake without impacting the health of the overall plant community. This is according to Sonny, as well as the company responsible for the lake management planning.

Before harvesting first began, some parts of the lake were very difficult, or nearly impossible to navigate, with weeds floating obtrusively all over from people trying to alleviate them. It took nearly three seasons of daily double-shift harvesting to clear the channels throughout the lake. Now each channel is cleared once each season and is able to remain open all season. Harvesting now occurs about once per week, but for about half a day. While at first harvesting a full load in a matter of several minutes, it now takes four to six hours to complete the task.

When asked about the occurrence of algae blooms, or the introduction of invasive species due to the harvesting of nuisance weeds, the response was a definite negative. They have never found any correlation to the weed harvesting. The lake does have occasional algae blooms, as most lakes do, but they appear to be random and generally related to no specific cause. They did have one significant bloom this past summer however, but that was pretty much attributed to the 6 inches of rain that fell in a 5 hour time period and washed many more nutrients into the lake - and was then followed by about 3 weeks of above 95 degree temperatures. Weeds were not being harvested at all during that time frame because the person responsible for applying for the cutting permit had neglected to do so on time

and the permit had not been granted. Sonny said that he wished they could have used the harvester to pick up the algae bloom.

As stated in the earlier report (circulated in the packet to Van Vliet Lake property owners), Rolling Stone Lake does have a small a growth of an invasive species - curly leaf pond weed. This was discovered about a year ago and has been closely monitored ever since. A plan for containment /removal has been detailed in their lake management plan. I viewed the infected area closely. It is a small area around some large boulders almost right of center from the boat landing. It seems apparent and logical that the invasive species was brought into the lake from some other lake by a boater. This area, by the way, has never been cut by the weed harvester.

I asked Sonny specifically about problems they had had with the weed harvesting program, e.g., floaters, turbidity, silt, fishing decline, complaints, disposal issues, etc. Basically, he said that they had experienced relatively few problems in any of those areas. Floaters will exist, but can be handled pretty easily by an experienced operator working with the wind to help with collection. Turbidity will be created, but will subside in a couple of days. He stated that the turbidity as well as the silt were not much of an issue after those couple of days. Though he had not been able to do much fishing this year, he said that from reports he had heard, the fishing remained good, and stated that it had shown a marked improvement since the weed harvesting began because predator fish were now able to move about and feed more easily. Complaints about the weed harvesting were minimal, though a few people remained against the idea of harvesting. Disposal of the weeds was not an issue at all. People use it to mix with topsoil, feed deer, mulch lawns and gardens, etc.

I think my trip to Rolling Stone Lake was well worthwhile. I came away feeling that a professionally done and strategically organized weed harvesting operations done under DNR guidelines can be very beneficial.

Jim

iii. Pickerel Lake - Jim Sprester

Lake	Pickerel lake
County	Forrest / Langlade
Contact	Chuck Sleeter Town & Lakes Chariman
Date of Contact	10/4/2012
Questions	
1. Lake Specifics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1250 acres / max 14 ft / mean 5 ft
2. Lake Organization-Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake District
3. Public Landing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes - 3 boat landings
4. Harvest Questions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Why did you start cutting ? Quantity - increase or decrease Timing How frequently do you cut / recut the same path ? Do you find cut paths start to develop a "memory" and require less cutting, [perhaps due to increased boat usage ? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Began cutting Began cutting because of navigation and recreation issues. Weeds all over. Propellers causing more floaters and spreading. • Cut from end of May until September • The amount of weeds harvested fluctuates from year to year - depends on the weather and the amount of time available - it is all done with volunteer help • Generally try to cut paths twice per year. Remains open. The amount of weeds stays about the same each year.
5. Harvest Organization / Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They own a harvester, elevator, and truck. They budget about \$10k per year....fuel, repairs,equipment, etc. Tax through district.
6. Lake Quality <ol style="list-style-type: none"> can you speak about lake quality impact on fishing water quality algae blooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Only stir up lake if you dig into the silt at the bottom - otherwise no problem. Leave a few inches of weeds at bottom. Water stays pretty clear. • Hardly any problems with floaters.". Often uses harvester to collect floaters that boat props cut. • "Harvesting hasn't hurt fishing at all. DNR would never allow harvesting if it did." • "Resorts are 100 per cent in favor. Brings in customers. Easier to boat and fish." • "Yes, we can still have algae blooms, but we have found absolutely no correlation to the harvesting of weeds - none at all."
7. Weeds Disposition <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How and where do you dispose of weeds? How much do you get ? (increasing / decreasing) Do you track on a yearly basis how much weed volume or wt you remove ? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A farmer takes most of the weeds for his fields. People also take a lot for their gardens. There is no problem with disposal.
8. Invasives <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Do you have invasives ? Timing Did your invasives appear in areas where you had cut our did they show in new areas ? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive species - Eurasian milfoil - been here "forever" and prior to cutting.
9. Years Harvesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

iv. Lower Post - Langlade County (Mike Czarny)

Lake	Lower Post
County	Elcho / Langlade
Contact	Jack Hahn 715-275-3130 - water Qlty mgr
Date of Contact	10/8/2012
Questions	
1. Lake Specifics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 379 acres / max 9 ft / mean 3 ft - - Eutrophic / Drainage
2. Lake Organization-Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake District
3. Public Landing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes
4. Harvest Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Why did you start cutting ? b. Quantity - increase or decrease c. Timing d. How frequently do you cut / recut the same path ? e. Do you find cut paths start to develop a "memory" and require less cutting, [perhaps due to increased boat usage ? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started ~10 yrs ago • Weeds were getting too thick, lots of floaters • Didn't harvest this year -no need to put equipment. Dropping off over last couple years (cause ??) • Normal year - 8-9 loads / day - 4 days / week. Chasing after floaters mainly • Starts early June • Works with Sandy Wikham (WDNR)
5. Harvest Organization / Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All volunteers - but beginning to lose base. Probably moving towards permanent hires • Repair work can be costly if use an inexperienced crew
6. Lake Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. can you speak about lake quality impact on fishing b. water quality c. algae blooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing - no negative impact • Water quality pretty constant • Phosphorous levels high / no thermocline - boat traffic may stir up phosphorus levels and prompt bloom. Not related to cut
7. Weeds Disposition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. How and where do you dispose of weeds? b. How much do you get ? (increasing / decreasing) c. Do you track on a yearly basis how much weed volume or wt you remove ? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispose at farmland site
8. Invasives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Do you have invasives ? b. Timing c. Did your invasives appear in areas where you had cut our did they show in new areas ? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curly Pondweed - was in lake before cutting. Did some chemical treatment. • Don't see any cause and effect on invasives to harvesting. • Overall very + results and despite the expense
9. Years Harvesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ~10 years

v. Muskellunge Lake - Vilas County - Tom Olson email update

From: **Tom Olson** <tom@olsonuniverse.com>

Date: Sat, Sep 15, 2012 at 10:30 PM

Subject: Contact on Muskellunge

I got a call from my contact on Muskellunge. He does not live on the portion of the lake that is most impacted by aquatic plants. From my conversation with him, he did not pay a lot of attention to the harvesting or the outcome. He did not say whether it was a success or not. He said that there were no problems that resulted from it that he recalled at the time or has seen since. He is uncertain as to why the harvesting was not done again. Also, there was apparently no controversy at the lake about the project. Apparently, the association is relatively small with relatively low dues. He has encouraged higher dues in the past – but that hasn't happened.

So I view his comments as interesting in that there wasn't a follow-up but also that there was apparently also no harm to the lake caused by the effort. They apparently tried it and didn't do it again for whatever reason.

I was hoping to get over the Muskellunge next week to chat with someone but won't be able to do it as I had to return to Madison as a result of an illness – nothing serious but needed to be dealt with.

- b. WDNR Fish Habitat / Mechanical Harvest Impact Study (Mike Czarny) - In the Aug 21, 2012 presentation to the VVLA , on Page #8, Point #7 "One may see improvement in fisheries, but the WI DNR acknowledges, facts are difficult to pinpoint and has initiated studies. (Appendix #3)".

We have now found the study was conducted in the 1990's on Fish Lake (Dane Cty). We spoke with Jean Unmuth, WDNR Water Resources Specialist for the Lower Wisconsin River Basin and author on the papers. Jean does agree that removal of significant weed mass can potentially benefit the fishery.

[North American Journal of Fisheries Management](#) (impact factor: 1.07). 01/1089; 19:1089-1098.

Effects of mechanical harvesting of Eurasian watermilfoil on largemouth bass and bluegill populations in Fish Lake, Wisconsin - [Jean M L Unmuth](#), [Michael J Hansen](#), [Thomas D Pellett](#)

College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point, 54481, Stevens Point, Wisconsin, USA; Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Integrated Science Services, 53716, Monona, Wisconsin, USA; Present address: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 53955, Wisconsin, USA

"Following vegetation removal, mean abundance of largemouth bass and bluegill did not change significantly, but growth increased for age-2–4 largemouth bass and declined for age-5 largemouth bass and age-4–5 blue-gills. Survival increased for age-2, 3, and 5 largemouth bass and age-4–6 bluegills. Population size structure increased for both species. We conclude that removal of Eurasian watermilfoil may increase growth and survival of some age-groups of centrarchid populations without altering the abundance of either species."

Fisheries - [Volume 23, Issue 2, 1998](#)

Managing Macrophytes to Improve Fish Growth: A Multi-lake Experiment - M.H. Olson et al.

"Macrophyte harvesting often has been suggested as a way to improve fish growth and size structure in lakes with high densities of submergent macrophytes and stunted fish populations. However, previous experimental tests have provided no clear consensus on whether the technique works for management. We conducted a series of whole-lake manipulations to test the effects of macrophyte removal on growth of bluegill and largemouth bass. We selected four lakes in southern and central Wisconsin for experimental manipulation and nine others for controls. In August 1994, we removed macrophytes from approximately 20% of the littoral zone by cutting a series of evenly spaced, deep channels throughout each treatment lake. In the first year after manipulation, we observed substantially increased growth rates of some age classes of both bluegill and largemouth bass in treatment lakes relative to controls. Growth rates of other age classes were less responsive to manipulation. We observed increased bluegill and largemouth bass growth despite rapid regrowth of macrophytes in our treatment lakes. By May 1996, fewer than 25% of the channels remained. Our results suggest that harvesting macrophytes in a series of deep channels may be a valuable tool for integrated management of fish and macrophytes."

- c. Input from Sandry Gillum - Vice President North central Region Wisconsin Lakes Association.
715.479.6051 / ssgillum@nnex.net

Sandy Gillum is the former Director of Education and Past President of Vilas County Lakes Association. As a representative of that association, she participated in the development of shoreland zoning in Vilas County and led the association in elevating significant lake issues to statewide concern. Sandy has served on the LoonWatch Advisory Council of Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College in Ashland. She is an ecologist, a graduate of Lake Leaders Institute Crew VII and the WI Shoreland Restoration training program. She designed and supervised a number of shoreline restorations in Vilas, Oneida, Forest, and Florence counties and has published research on the habitat values of natural shorelines.

Points she believes are effecting recent weed growth in this area:

- Extended ice off period - lost at least 1 month of ice cover
 - Still in a drought situation
 - Higher lake temps driving increased plant and algae growth
 - 2 years of higher winds - create stirring effect of lakes
- Sandy notes - People in the south do cutting, because of massive growth and it works.
 - Sandy is trying to find papers on a mechanical harvest study on Butternut Lake (WI) conducted by UPENN.
 - She also agreed trying to weave together a WDNR grant on fish habitat / mechanical harvesting impacts may be a good idea to pursue.

2. Contractor / Project Information

a. Notes from Lake tour with Cliff Schmidt

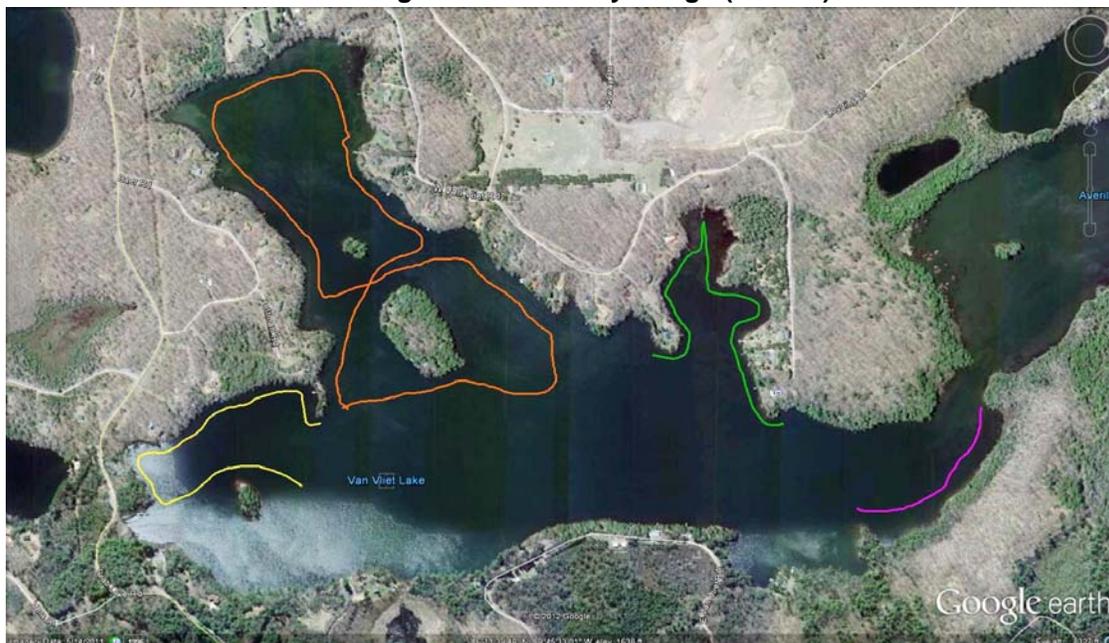
Visit Report

Contractor: Schmidt's Landscaping and Nursery - Cliff Schmidt
Date: Monday September 03, 2012
Attendees: Jeff Burke, Ed Brodsky, Jim Sprester, and Mike Czarny

- 1) Cliff was given the following information, in advance of his visit:
 - a) Van Vliet Lake APMP
 - b) Summary Table showing survey results
 - c) Map showing "lake voting sense on issue".
 - d) Initial rough cutting map outline , as a suggested lake tour starting point.(last page of report)
- 2) Cliff's overall view of our lake would indicate the weed issues are clearly a nuisance navigation problem. He did not feel the DNR would have any concerns about issuing a permit. He did comment that the DNR might choose to issue a 1-year conditional permit, with year's 2-3 conditional on upgrade of our APMP.
- 3) Cliff's history as a "straight-shooter" has preceded him from our discussions with Rest Lake and Muskellunge Lake. Cliff discussed his knowledge of lakes in the area. He particularly noted two lakes in Mercer, which have received DNR permits, much against Cliff's recommendation(s). He feels he is wasting his time, much to the surprise of the DNR. The weed growth is quite healthy, not dense, and not impacting navigation.
- 4) Cutting next to DNR / State owned land would not be approved. Cliff felt we should remove any proposed cutting paths from the north end of the lake, bordered by the Hemlocks.
- 5) Use of a DNR landing for this operation will not be acceptable to the DNR. An alternate site must be developed.
- 6) Some lakes cut 2-x year. In our case, Cliff suggested a cut in early July. This timing avoids fish breeding windows and catches most plants as they begin to become nuisance navigation issues.
- 7) The DNR requires all licensed contractors to throw back gamefish, caught during the harvesting.
- 8) Although Cliff will help us with the permit, the permit application to the DNR is our responsibility, not Cliff's. Typically, the engineering firm, which helped construct the APMP, would help us assemble the permit information, maps, and cut plan. Due to our "issues and experiences" with Bonestroo, Cliff will help us out on the 1st round. (Cliff is not familiar with White Water Assoc., used by PITLC)
- 9) Cliff will develop a cutting outline plan and costs using a bathymetric map.
 - a) Based on the lake tour, Cliff's plan will attempt to maximize the time of the harvester on the water. (long straight line trips for full loads)
 - b) It will include cutting navigation lanes (20-30 ft wide), perhaps a 1-x pass fish channel in areas, and individual pier access routes where needed.
 - i) Northeast Bay - eliminated from plan due to DNR ownership of land
 - ii) Birch Bay - no areas of concern for boat or depth access. DNR may limit harvesting of emergent plants (lily pads)
 - iii) Lemburg Bay and Novak Island - only area(s) of concern were in the extreme SW corner of bay, which is heavily silted.
 - iv) Montgomery Bay - no areas of concern for boat or depth access.
 - c) Cliff's plan will be GPS based. The boat is equipped to track against plan, which the DNR prefers.
 - d) Boats are cleaned, washed, and disinfected prior to insertion into a new water body. If the boat was used in a lake infested with AIS, it is allowed to dry out for a week.

- 10) Cliff cautioned we should expect the lake to look disheveled for 5-7 days after cutting.
- a) On the (+) side - The paddles will aerate the lake, which is a good thing.
 - b) The paddlewheels and cutters will churn up sediment in shallow water. The WDNR is against disturbing sediment.
 - c) The type of plant and harvesting action will generate a large amount of fragments. Some fragments will be trapped in the adjoining plant mats. Some fragments may be re-harvested by Cliff. Some will float around the lake and sink, as is typical, in ~1 week.
 - d) Cliff is required by DNR to pickup "as much as possible".
- 11) Other general comments and observations
- a) Cliff has been in the business > 40 yrs. He has never heard of harvesting causing the growth of AIS.
 - b) Harvesting removes a large amount of nutrient tonnage, which would otherwise compost on the bottom of the lake.
 - c) Cliff does acknowledge risk with excess chemical treatment. This can potentially leave a barren landscape on the bottom of a lake, which may be ripe for AIS growth.
 - d) Cliff has seen fishing improvement in other harvested lakes. Baitfish tends to be "stunted" in weedy areas. Opening channels will allow predator fish access to new food supplies.
 - e) Cliff has never seen a diminution of lake TSI numbers.
 - f) Cliff noticed algae blooms during our tour. Cliff acknowledged some lakes incurred algae blooms, following his harvesting activities. He commented algae blooms are fickle and poorly understood. In his opinion, there may not be a correlation. These lakes had experienced algae blooms in their past.
 - g) I asked Cliff about the value of him speaking in front of the Lake group. Cliff does not feel he is a good public speaker. He suggested we contact the DNR or UWEX for options.

1st Thoughts on Cut - Very Rough (DRAFT)



b. Quote Letter from Cliff Schmidt

SCHMIDT'S AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL

Schmidt's Landscaping and Nursery Inc.
320 GOLF DRIVE - IOLA, WI 54945
Ph. 715-445-3962
E-mail: cliff@schmidts-aquatic.com
www.schmidt's-aquatic.com

PROPOSAL

September 13, 2012

Van Vliet Lake Association
Michael Czarny
7236 West Van Vliet Rd.
Presque Isle, WI 54557
Hm: 715-686-7998
Cell: 608-509-6194

Mechanical aquatic plant harvesting proposal 2013:

Aquatic plant harvesting and removal as directed by a Wisconsin DNR approved permit. The hourly rate for 2013 is \$170.00 per operating hour and a \$800.00 setup charge. This price includes all trucking and setup of equipment at your site, an aquatic plant harvester with a 7' cutting head, an experienced operator, shore elevator, and a 15 cubic yard dump truck.

The Lake Association is to supply a launch site and a disposal site. The disposal site should be within 2 miles of the shore elevator, if possible. Additional trucking at \$4.00 per mile.

As per our visit, it was recommended that mid July would be the most cost effective and July 12th to the 16th would work out as of this proposal date. These dates are affected by weather and unforeseen mechanical conditions and could be changed slightly. Harvesting dates will be based on open available dates upon acceptance of this proposal.

Based on the preliminary estimate acreage map to harvest 40' common use/fish lanes (this map was developed for estimating purposes only and is not to be used for a harvesting polyline or permit):

Site 1: 7.4 hrs. + 1.0 hr. cleanup

Site 2: 8.8 hrs. + 1.0 hr. cleanup

Site 3: 6.2 hrs. + 1.0 hr. cleanup

Site 4: 9.7 Hrs. + 1.0 hr. cleanup

Piers (28): 7 hrs. + 1.0 hr. cleanup

Total: 44.1 hrs. (This is only an estimate. Harvesting is done on a per hour charge.)

We carry a complete inventory of spare parts including hydraulic pumps and motors and are capable of self-maintaining our harvester. Major component replacements such as the diesel engine would require a delay. Our machine was engineered with oversize paddle wheels with 6 additional rpm's that increases its efficiency. Cutting access channels to piers reduces production by approximately 60%.

Invoicing includes tonnage harvested and aquatic plants observed.

Please note that aquatic plant harvesting dose required a WDNR permit that is within an Aquatic Plant Management Plan. Please apply for your permit ASAP. If you need assistance please contact us.

Sign and return a copy.

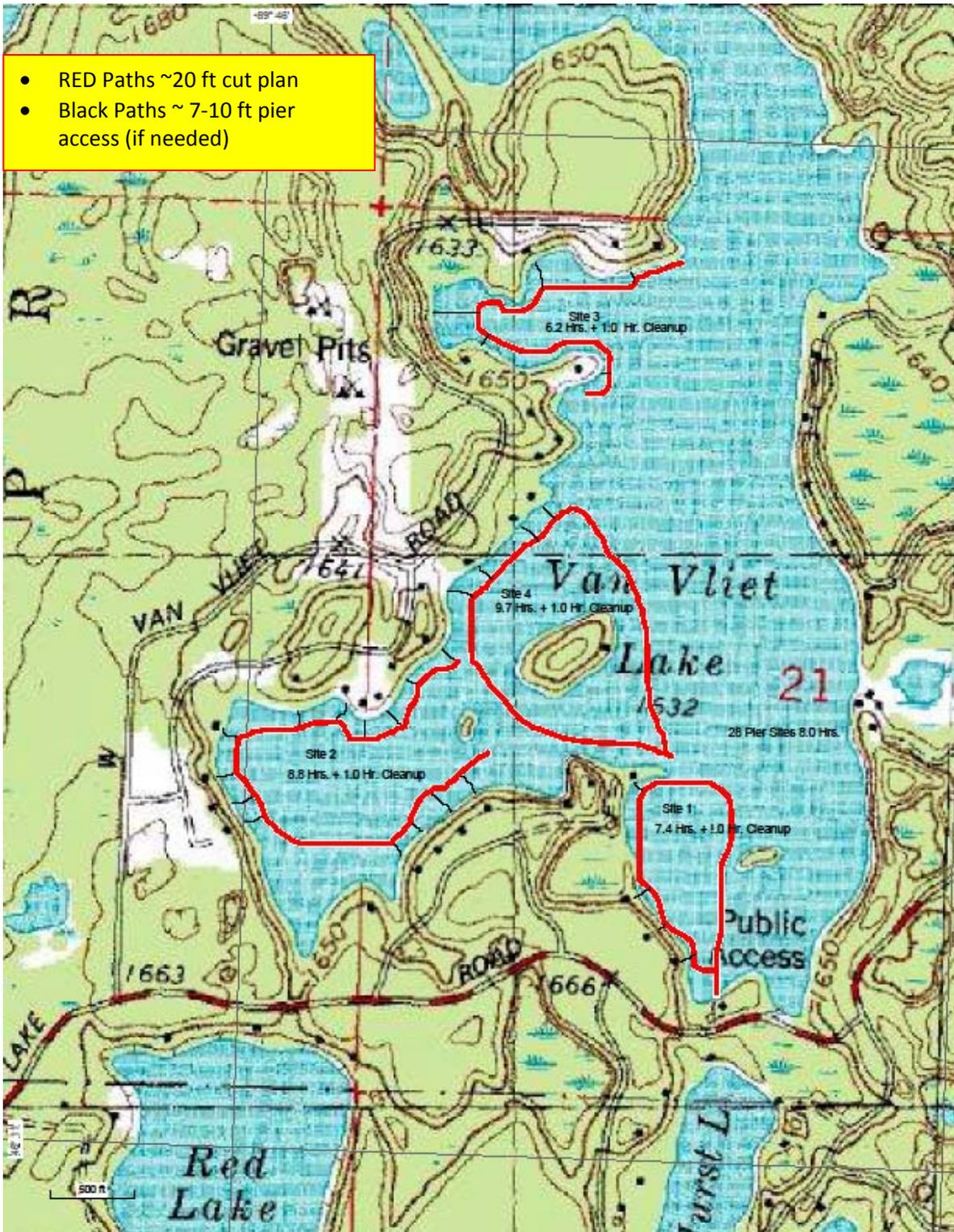
BY: Clifford Schmidt

DATE: 9-13-2012

LIABILITY: SCHMIDT'S LANDSCAPING AND NURSERY INC. SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR ANY PERSONAL INJURY, PROPERTY DAMAGE, OR

Cut widths may be reduced
to ~20 ft per VVLA

c. Cutting Plan from Cliff Schmidt



d. Estimate for Funds

		Length (ft)	Width (ft)	Total Sq Ft	Sq Ft / Acre	Acres
Site #1	Montgomery Bay	3120	20	62400	43560	1.4
Site #2	Lemberg Bay	3628	20	72560	43560	1.7
Site #3	Birch Bay	2603	20	52060	43560	1.2
Site #4	Novak Island Circle	4096	20	81920	43560	1.9
				268940	43560	6.2
	Totals	13447	20	268940		6.2
	Acreage Van Vliet Lake	230				
	% Proposed Cut	2.7%				

HOURS				
Site #	Site Name	Cutting Hrs	Cleanup Hrs	Totals
1	Montgomery Bay	7.4	1	8.4
2	Lemberg Bay (Back Area)	8.8	1	9.8
3	Birch Bay	6.2	1	7.2
4	Novak Island	9.7	1	10.7
5	Piers	7	1	8
				44.1
	Sub Totals	39.1	5	44.1
DOLLARS @ \$170				
Site #	Site Name	Cutting Hrs	Cleanup Hrs	Totals
1	Montgomery Bay	\$ 1,258	\$ 170	\$ 1,428
2	Lemberg Bay (Back Area)	\$ 1,496	\$ 170	\$ 1,666
3	Birch Bay	\$ 1,054	\$ 170	\$ 1,224
4	Novak Island	\$ 1,649	\$ 170	\$ 1,819
5	Piers	\$ 1,190	\$ 170	\$ 1,360
				\$ 7,497
	Sub Totals	\$ 6,647	\$ 850	\$ 7,497
	Setup Cost			\$ 800
	Subtotal			\$ 8,297
	Contingency	15%		\$ 1,245
	TOTALS			\$ 9,542

- e. Disposal Site - Parcel #22-661 (Presque Isle Gravel Pit)

Town of Presque Isle
Regular Town Board Meeting
October 4, 2012
(unapproved)

Chairman Jack Harrison called the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Presque Isle to order at 7:00 P.M. Supervisors Charles Hayes and Adam Johnson were also present. The minutes of the September 20, 2012 meeting were approved by motion from Mr. Hayes, second from Mr. Johnson, motion carried. Ms. Sitkiewitz summarized the treasurer's report.

Old Business:

Discussion of Trolling Motors on Small Lakes: Ann & Bill Reiser were present from Rosalind Lake, a 43 acre lake without a public boat landing. Mrs. Reiser stated that there have not been any internal combustion engines on this lake until this year. One property owner has allowed boaters to use his private landing. These boaters are not respecting the slow-no-wake provision of the boating ordinance. Mr. and Mrs. Reiser both spoke to the Board regarding this problem. Mr. Reiser provided the Board with copies of Boulder Junction's ordinance. He spoke briefly, giving data to support his request, and thanked the board for giving them an opportunity to speak. Mr. Johnson asked some questions of Mr. Reiser, saying that initiation of such an ordinance change would start a chain of events resulting in many citizens from small lakes to request a similar change. He questioned how allowing only trolling motors would affect aquatic invasive species. Mr. Johnson suggested contacting Mr. Meyer, our local constable, regarding these violations. He also asked Mr. Reiser if there was any opposition to his proposal from property owners on the lake. Mr. Reiser said that there was one property owner opposed to the change. Mr. Johnson asked if Constable Meyer has ever been contacted. They stated that they may have been using an incorrect phone number. Mr. Johnson indicated that, since this ordinance has been in place for many years, the Board would like to consider this over a period of time so they can think it through. He suggested tabling this agenda item for that purpose. Mr. Hayes said that a case would need to be made for changing this regulation for Mermaid Lake and not others.

Discussion and Possible Approval RE: Loan for Leased Equipment: Ms. Sitkiewitz stated that it would be possible to finance the leased equipment with same terms.

Re-financing of All Outstanding Municipal Loans: Headwaters loans will mature in March 2014. Half a percent could be saved by re-financing through the local bank. The state trust fund loans currently have an interest rate of 5.25%. The rate offered by Headwaters is 3.25%. This will be considered at the next meeting when more definite numbers are available.

Weed Control on Van Vliet Lake: Jeff Burke spoke about weed harvesting next summer. As he mentioned at an earlier meeting, a location for disposing of the harvested weeds must be found. He suggested the old gravel pit might be a good location for that. This project would be financed by the lake association. They are seeking permission to use the old gravel pit. Jeannette Gail Strand spoke about her concerns that once one lake dumps there, it would be used by other lakes. She is concerned that the practice would get out of hand. Mr. Hayes asked if it would be necessary to bury the material. Mr. Burke declared that would not be necessary. A motion granting permission to the Van Vliet Lake owners to use the southwest corner of the gravel pit in 2013 for disposal of harvested weeds was made by Mr. Hayes; second by Mr. Johnson; Harrison, aye, Hayes, aye, Johnson, aye. Motion carried.

Adoption of Zoning Ordinance Amendment: Repeal of 910. Towers and Antennas: A motion adopting the repeal of 910. Towers and antennas was made by Mr. Hayes; second by Mr. Johnson; Harrison, aye, Hayes, aye, Johnson, aye. Motion carried.

Discussion and Possible Acceptance of Proposal RE: Insulation Repairs in Community Building: The Board met with Skip Slatinski to look at the insulation in the Community Building. Mr. Slatinski submitted two proposals of \$12,500 each for the two parts of the project. Mr. Johnson stated that Mr. Slatinski has a good reputation as a local contractor. A motion acceptance of the proposals as delineated in the documents

- f. Staging Site - Parcel # 22-699-01 **NEED confirmation letter (ED)**

- g. Lake APMP Engineering Contractor - Mike Czarny spoken with Dean Premo on 10/3/2012, President of Whitewater Associates (Eng Contractor for PITLC). Dean has been appraised of our efforts and appreciated being kept in the loop. His company has no prior experience with WDNR harvesting permits. He has offered a review our Mechanical Harvesting Application at no charge, as a learning experience for his company.

- h. Other Contractors
 - i. Lake Renewal Co, of Wittenberg WI was contacted by phone and email. ROUGH estimates below. We have no data about his relationship with WDNR.

From: Ed Walder [<mailto:lrenewal@wittenbergnet.net>]

Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 7:50 AM

To: Michael Czarny

Subject: Re: Aquatic Plant Mechanical Harvesting

Hi Mike

I charge \$150 an hour, that comes with a harvester, elevator, and dump truck. I can cut about 1 acre per hour. I also have a 40 hour minimum. So for me to do 6.2 hours of work I will need to charge you \$6,000. This might not sound reasonable to you, but I have travel, set up and cleanup involved.

Thanks,

ED Walder

Lake Renewal

(715)454-6258

Cell#(715)581-5439